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Arms Cache Discovery Frustrated Cuban Plot

By the Associated Press

Discovery of an arms cache allegedly supplied by Cuba frustrated a widespread plot to prevent election of a new Venezuelan President, Venezuela's foreign minister says.

The official, Marcos Falcon Briceño, outlined the activities in secret testimony last week before a special investigating committee of the Organization of American States. A source close to the investigation disclosed some of his testimony yesterday.

Discovery of the three-ton arms cache, buried on a sandy Venezuelan beach, had been disclosed earlier, Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt charged at the time that the weapons had come from Cuba as part of a plot to overthrow his government. Mr. Falcon presented documents to back up the charge.

Marked Arms

The OAS committee visited Venezuela and its chairman, Rodolfo Weidmann of Argentina, said later, "we saw with our

own eyes the coat of arms of Cuba" on the weapons.

The committee, working toward a formal report by January 15, heard Mr. Falcon and Gen. Humberto Vivas Gonzalez on Wednesday. It still is awaiting further information from Venezuela, committee sources said.

Mr. Falcon testified that the Venezuelan security forces discovered two separate plots, the sources indicated.

Broad Objectives

One, allegedly directed by former Col. Juan de Dios Moncada Vidal, was to apply all over the country, with attacks on communication posts, military garrisons and other strategic installations.

The second one, which he said was led by Eduardo Sanchez Mercado, was designed to take over Caracas, Venezuela's capital city, through a popular uprising. The arms to be used in this plan, labeled "Operation Moto," had the specification of the ones found by the Venezuelan security services, he said.

Both Gov. Moncada Vidal and Mr. Sanchez Mercado are under arrest in Caracas.